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EPIC COMICS™

CLIVE BARKER'S NIGHT BREED™ V. S. RAWHEAD REX II OF IV

ENTER
PELOQUIN

BY RETON

BOBI



Clive Barker's
NIGHT BREED

RAWHEAD REX:
RETURN OF THE KING
PART TWO OF FOUR

CLIVE BARKER
creator/story

D. G. CHICHESTER
story/writer

DAN LAWLIS
JOHN RHEAUME
artists

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letterer

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editor

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EVEN THE
DEAD
CAN DIE.

IT'S NOT THE FIRST
THOUGHT THAT
COMES TO A
NIGHTBREED--

--ONE OF THOSE
NOMADIC UNDEAD
IN THE PANTHEON OF
MONSTROSITIES--

--BUT IT'S FOREVER
THERE, IN THE DARK
RECESSES, LURKING,
A WARNING AGAINST
THE ARROGANCE THAT
GROWS FROM LONG
YEARS AND ARCAIC
TALENTS IN THE
MIDNIGHT HOURS.

DON'T
YOU KNOW THE
IMPORTANCE OF
WEANING A
SON FROM HIS
MOTHER?

LEAVE
HIM--!

--MAX, IT'S
OKAY, IT'S
GOING TO BE--

--YOU
CAN'T--

IF NOT FOR ONE'S
SELF, THEN FOR ONE'S
LOVED ONES.

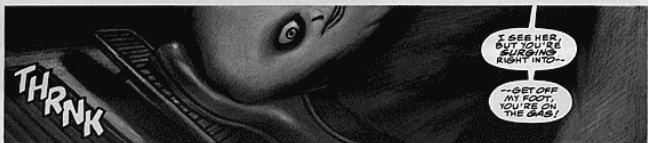
GIVE WITH
THE BRAT,
BITCH!

ALL
THE
KING'S
MEN...

EVEN THE DEAD
CAN DIE.









"YOU MUST BE PRETTY
TIGHT WITH BLOODY-
BONES AND SATAN,
PELOQUIN. WHAT WITH
COMING ALL THIS WAY
TO THEIR KID'S BAPTISM,
AN' SUCH..."

"TIGHT WITH THEM,
BOYS AN' GIRLS..."



-TIGHT
WITH ANYONE
GIVES ME A
CRACK TO SLIP
IT INTO!

ANY TAKERS?

YOU
ANIMAL!

HOLD ON,
I SAW HIM
FIRST!

NO NEED
TO ARGUE,
PLENTY TO--

PELOQUIN?
PELOQUIN, WHAT'S
WRONG? WHAT'S
THE--

SNFF











IN YOUR DREAMS--



--SECOND
THOUGHT, LET'S
MAKE THAT
NIGHTMARE!

MATER,
WHAT'S HE
DOING?!
HE'S--

SWERVE
SWERVE!
HIT IT
HIT THE--



SLTHKAM

ASSHOLES.





"ALGERNON, SOMETHING
HAPPENED WITH MATER
AND VINCAM."



"...IT SOUNDED
LIKE THERE MAY
HAVE BEEN AN
ACCIDENT!"



"NO GREAT WORK
IS ACCOMPLISHED
WITHOUT HARDSHIP,
MY SCARLET
WOMAN!"

"SOON, RAWHEAD,
JUST AS LEAH
PREDICTED!"

"SOON,
MY SON..."



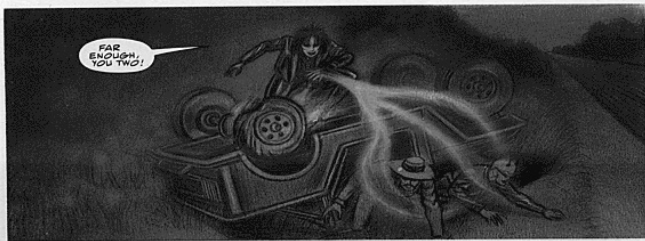
"VINCAM,
ARE YOU--"

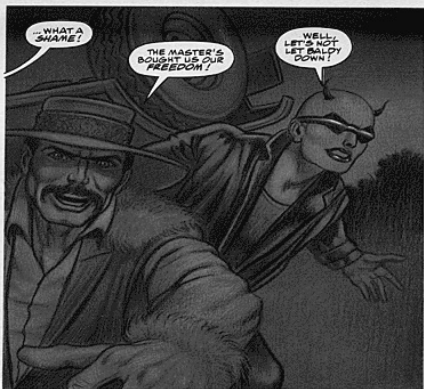
"TO HELL
WITH
LIGHTERS--"

"I'LL LIVE--
AND THAT'S MORE'N
I CAN SAY FOR
THAT BASTARD
SENT US OVER!"



"--BURN,
BABY,
BURN!"





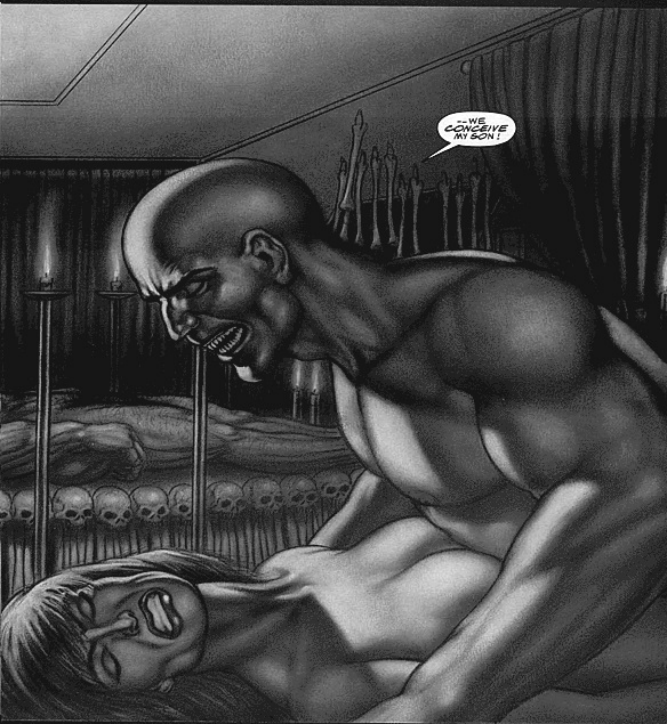






*HERE-- UNNGH-- IN THE TEMPLE WE HAVE
BUILT TOGETHER-- AHH-- AS THE TEMPLES
OF OUR BODIES COME TOGETHER--"







GET OFF, ALGERNON! STOP IT-- NOW! YOU'VE PUT ON ENOUGH OF A SHOW FOR--

WHAT'S THAT, MY SCARLET WOMAN? YOU WOULD HAVE MY MOUTH ON YOU THERE, AS WELL?



IT'S YOU, KINDER, IT'S ALWAYS YOU, YOU LOUSY--

OUR PRECIOUS FLUIDS, MINGLED TOGETHER, A GIFT FOR MY MAGICAL CHILD?



THIS IS ALL RIGHT! WHAT'S NEXT?

A BATH-- FOR ABOUT A MONTH!



NOW THE AMRITA-- THE MIXTURE OF SPERM AND VAGINAL FLUIDS-- TO SWEELEN THE SACRIFICE THAT MUCH MORE!



LET IT END, ALGERNON-- THE BABY, THE KILLINGS FOR THE CORPSE OF THAT THING-- IT'S GOT TO END!

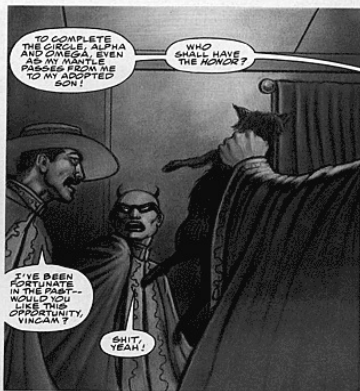
THE TEMPLE'S FALLEN ON HARD TIMES, LEAH-- IT NEEDS ITS REPUTATION IF I'M TO PROSPER!

BUYING THAT WITH A LITTLE BLOOD AND SHOWMANSHIP IS WELL WORTH THE COST!



RAWHEAD ISN'T SOME TRIP THAT'S GOING TO GO AWAY WHEN YOUR ARMY'S FLUSHED THE HEROIN OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM!

HE'S REAL-- A PRIMAL FORCE THAT THE UNKNOWN LAWS OF EXISTENCE CANCELED OUT 1000 YEARS AGO-- YOU EVEN PRETEND TO CHEAT THOSE LAWS AND WE ALL PAY THE PRICE!



ZASAS!
ZASAS!

M-MOMMA?
PAPA?

--GARBLED SOUNDS
FROM HUMAN MITE
JELLYLIPS--

--BUT THE SENTIMENT
IS SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN.

IT SPEAKS OF RETURN--
AND OF RESURRECTION.

THE WORDS MEAN
NOTHING TO THE
ONCE-UPON-A-
BRUTAL-TIME
MONARCH OF THE
WILD WOODS--

PAPA!
PA--

NABATANDA--

A JUST-DROPPED MITE FRESH
FROM THE WOMB BEGINS THE
LONG SLIDE DOWN THE PRIMORDIAL
SOVEREIGN'S MOISTENING GULLET.

HE CATCHES THE FLAVOR OF
BABYMEAT ON HIS TONGUE,
AND IT ONLY FUELS HIS TASTE
FOR MORE--

--ZASAS!

--TORN AND CHEWED AND
RE-CHEWED BY THE TEETH
THAT SLIDE FROM HIS GUMS
LIKE CAT'S CLAWS.

BEFORE HISTORY, HIS STORY
WAS ON THE LIPS OF TERRIFIED
MEN WHO WOULD LATER WEAVE
HIS LEGEND INTO A DOZEN
DIFFERENT STORIES OF
HEROISM AND HELL.

RAWHEAD REX--

--THE ONCE AND
FUTURE KING!



NO... IT
CAN'T BE...



YOU'VE DONE
IT, MASTER!
THE RITUAL,
YOUR SON!

...IT DOESN'T
HAPPEN THIS
WAY!

BUT, IN HIS
HEART--

--OR, AT THE VERY LEAST,
THE PLACE WHERE HIS HEART
WOULD BE IF HE HAD ONE--

--THE GREAT BEAST KNOWS
IT MUST HAPPEN THIS WAY.



WE'RE RUNNIN'
THE WIRES TA ME
TONGUE TONIGHT,
BOY--GONNA
ELECTRO-SHOCK
THAT BLACK ROT
RIGHT OUT!

GOD
WILLING!

AN' YOU'LL HELP,
ALGERNON--IT
BE THE WILL OF
GOD, YA HEAR?
THE WILL OF
GOD!

TO ESCAPE THE
STIFLING PREDES-
TINY PREACHED BY
HIS BRAINLESS
BIGOT OF A MOTHER,
HIS CANCEROUS
IDIOT OF A FATHER,
IT BECAME NEC-
CESSARY TO OVER-
THROW THEIR OLD
GOD WITH HIS OWN
RELIGION.



"ATTEND AND LEARN"
MY ASS! YOU'VE GONE
TOO FAR THIS TIME,
ALGERNON--TOO FAR!

I'M SICK OF IT,
SICK OF YOUR
TEACHING, TEACHING,
TEACHING AS IF YOU
WERE GOD ALMIGHTY
AND THE REST OF US
WERE JUST POOR
BLOODY SHITS IN
THE STREET!



OH, GOD...



WHAT
HAVE I DONE?
WHAT HAVE I
DONE?

BUT THERE'S A PROBLEM WITH
FINALLY GAINING FREE WILL.

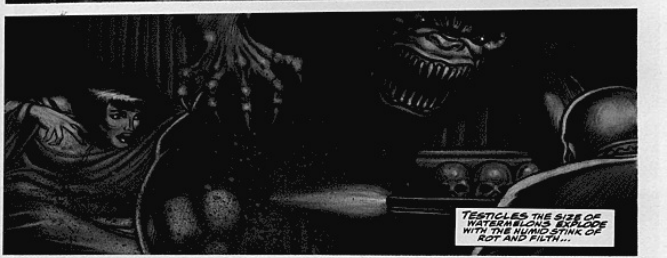
TOO MANY
CHOICES.



AND SO MANY THE
WRONG ONE...

THE DOOR!
THE DOOR!
WON'T--

MASTER,
IS THIS ANY WAY
TO TREAT YOUR
SON?



TESTICLES THE SIZE OF
WATERMELONS EXPLODE
WITH THE HUMID STINK OF
ROT AND FILTH...



...AND A WOMAN NAMED
LEAN GLIPOTH SCREAMS
AS SHE RECEIVES A
BELLYFULL.

Spare
the rod...



THE WORDS MEANT NOTHING TO
THE ONCE-UPON-A-A-REPULSIVE-
TIME SCARLET WOMAN OF THE
TEMPLE OF THE RISEN KING--

BASTARD...

"HERE--LUNGH-- IN THE
TEMPLE WE HAVE BUILT
TOGETHER--AHN--"



"--AS THE TEMPLES
OF OUR BODIES COME
TOGETHER--"



HRRRAK

--GARBLED SOUNDS
FROM BARELY HUMAN
MITE KINDER LIPS--

--BUT THE
SENTIMENT
IS SOMETHING
ELSE AGAIN.

MOMMA!
POPPA!



THE BABY...
THE BILE...

...JUST LIKE
THE TATTOO
SYMBOLS SHOWED
...THE VISION...

...IT'S ONLY
BEGINNING,
KINDER... ONLY
BEGINNING...

IT SPEAKS OF
REBIRTH... AND
OF REVENGE.

"DAMNDEST THING I EVER SAW! I HEARD ABOUT THIS OTHER PLACE ONCE, THEY SAW A LIMO COME THROUGH THE WINDOW AND TOOK OUT THE SECURITY GUARD..."

STUFF



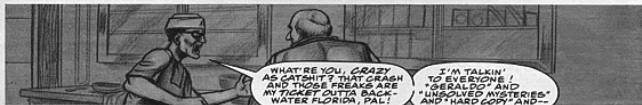
I APPRECIATE YOUR HELPING US GET THE FACTS STRAIGHT ON THIS ONE, SON...

I WONDER IF THAT'S WHY THEY'VE GOT SUCH A TOUGH TIME GETTING SECURITY FOR THESE PLACES? ANYWAY, OFFICER, DAMNDEST THING!

... AND I'D APPRECIATE YOUR KEEPING QUIET ABOUT EVERYTHING UNTIL WE AUTHORITIES HAVE HAD TIME TO CHECK THINGS OUT!

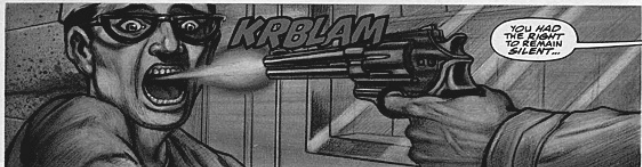


I'LL FILE A REPORT, SO YOU NEEDN'T BOTHER ANY OTHER COPS, AND IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING, DON'T TALK TO THE PAPERS OR TV!

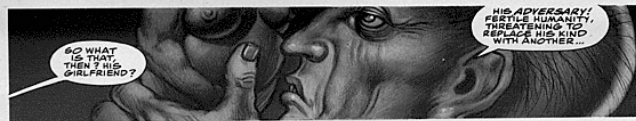


WHAT'RE YOU, CRAZY AS CATSHIT? THAT CRASH AND THOSE FREAKS ARE MY TICKET OUTTA BACK-WATER FLORIDA, PAL!

I'M TALKIN' TO EVERYONE! "GERALDO" AND "UNSOLVED MYSTERIES" AND "HARD COPY" AND--



YOU HAD THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT...



BREEDING GROUND

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

BREEDING GROUND, c/o EPIC COMICS,
387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016

First off, let's keep a few promises: last time out, we promised to provide you with the addresses around the world where united Barkerophiles could congregate through the media of fanzines, newsletters and general correspondence. There are quite a few, so get those pens and pencils ready.

First, being a patriotically egocentric kind of publication, here are the addresses of places in the U.S. of A. that can provide you with info on the latest happenings and goings on with Clive and his myriad projects:

CLIVE BARKER
APPRECIATION SOCIETY
Deborah Gordon
96 Summer Street
Medford, MA 02155-4434 USA

They publish a semi-regular newsletter and a quarterly NIGHTBRED magazine. With a membership currently at over two hundred, their ranks are growing daily. Membership is free, and members are required only to send postage to receive the newsletter and magazine. The magazine features interviews, articles, short stories and artwork by members and professionals alike, inspired by Clive or horror in general. We'll keep you informed of their doings in future letters pages.

For our neighbors overseas in Clive's homeland, the postage access may be a little extreme, so here's a U.K. group that might interest you:

CLIVE BARKER FAN CLUB
Jon Gregory
401 Topham Road
Exeter
Devon, ENGLAND EX27AB

And last, but not at all in the least, we have a way for true Barkerophiles to access Clive himself, through his newly established post office box! Write your personal missives to:

CLIVE BARKER
P.O. Box #691885
Los Angeles, CA 90069

Our thanks to these individuals and groups for allowing us to interact with them and spread the fever for the future of horror to our readers.

Fellow Breed and Lunch (Naturals).

I am very happy with the NIGHTBRED and HELLRAISER comics. I am an avid fan and collector of anything by or about Clive Barker. At first I thought the quality of the storyline would be ruined. Then when I read the books I was very happy. Good job and thanks for killer art and fantastic reading! Please keep me up to date on future projects and when the books will come out monthly.

Thanks, again.

Bill "I want more Clive Barker" Vogel
2676 Bay Street
Sarasota, FL 34237

Dear Mr. Barker and his Breed,

I have to admit to being a Clive Barker fan. I've read all of his novels, seen all of his movies and now I collect all of his comics! The reason for this is simple. Clive Barker has a distinctive style that makes it easy for him to expose a world unlike any other. Mr. Barker seems to be a modern H.P. Lovecraft!

Anyway, I just had to write to tell you how much I enjoyed issues #11 and #12 of NIGHTBRED. The story by D.G. Chichester was so good that I almost thought Mr. Barker himself wrote it! One of the things that I like about Mr. Barker's writing is that at times it reads like poetry. Mr. Chichester captures that aspect very well.

The art also deserves comment. Mark Nelson is the man who got me into comics with Dark Horse's "Aliens" Vol. 1. He doesn't disappoint here either! I have to admit that I didn't think Mr. Nelson's art would be improved by the addition of color but that definitely wasn't the case in this story or the one he did for HELLRAISER! I enjoyed Mark's work so much that I think he should be the only artist on NIGHTBRED! I know what you're going to say to that thought: "NIGHTBRED should have no permanent artist." At least bring him back for another series or two!

I can't wait for NIGHTBRED #13! Rawhead Rex is one of my favorite Barker creations! It'll be cool to see how he fits in with the Nightbreed.

Epic definitely has the best horror line in history! HELLRAISER is always awesome! To be honest NIGHTBRED seemed to be a bit lacking before issue #11, but now I see that you guys have fixed that all up.

Thanks a lot for the excellent comics. If all comics were like these I'd go bankrupt! Tell Clive that he's my hero!!!

Yours,

Steven Singer
1400 California Avenue
White Oak, PA 15131

Message passed. Thanks, Steven.

As I pointed out above, we were equally impressed with the job that Mark did on this storyline and have already signed him up for a second run, with D.G. Chichester handling the plot. But we also have other stories in the works with hot artists such as Colleen Doran, Tony Harris and Miran Kim! One very important story written by Nicholas "Kinski" Vince, involves the fate of Cabal/Baphomet and the souls of the previous seven saviors of the Nightbreed!

Dear Sirs,

I am overjoyed with the surge of illustrated

series based on the works of Clive Barker, especially the upcoming Epic adaptation of WEAVEWORLD. I am writing to you to inquire about one of Barker's most popular creations which has been promised an upcoming appearance in NIGHTBRED: Rawhead Rex. The story it comes from is one of his goriest (and scariest). Admittedly, the film version was a mess, but I heard some time ago that a graphic adaptation of it was in the works. This was more than a year ago and I can only assume that it has been completed. If so, would Epic be behind it? If it isn't you would happen to know who is and when it came out? I know that Eclipse comics has been converting *The Books of Blood* into comics with the series *Tapping the Vein*, so it is possible they might have something to do with Rex. If you would know I would greatly appreciate it.

One final question: will WEAVEWORLD be a quarterly publication or take longer? It's simply that waiting more than a year for NEUROMANCER #2 is difficult especially for an avid reader of William Gibson. And I'm just as avid (read that rabid) about Clive Barker.

Kudos to whoever decided for the Breed and the Cenobites to spar off in JIHAD. I'll be looking forward to it.

Sincerely,

Alex Schor
803 Hillside Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20902

Alex, Eclipse is currently working on an adaptation of Rawhead Rex, which, at this writing, is without a release date. We content ourselves with taking Clive's ideas and stories in new directions, so the Rawhead we're playing with is that from after the end of Clive's original story. This new story has been created by Clive himself and D.G. Chichester, and so is as close to the source as resources allow. Dan's take on the resurrection of this character has been described as "killer" by Clive himself. We'll leave the final tally to you, the readers, starting in next month's letters page.

But we're not limiting the Barker universe at Epic to NIGHTBRED and HELLRAISER by any means. This Rawhead saga should be evidence of this. And in 1992, we look forward to rocking the comic scene with more of Clive's original ideas in new knock-your-socks-off comics including CLIVE BARKER'S HARROWERS, straight off the pages of HELLRAISER. Into your hot little hands! Look for more on this title and the others still in the planning stages in this space, next month. Meanwhile, keep your friends abreast of the changes here—HELLRAISER is now on sale every six weeks and NIGHTBRED is at a store near you monthly beginning with issue #15! If you don't see it, ask for it. If you do see it, get one for a friend. Remember, we know where you live. . .

Next:



PELOQUIN & RAWHEAD
FACE TO FACE!
CLAW TO CLAW!



“None of us are innocent, **Monster**. . .”

“There are only those weak enough to believe we are, and those strong enough to revel in the knowledge that we aren’t!”